

TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*State of Texas Building, 401 E. Franklin, 5th Floor
Monday, May 9, 2005*

MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS:	MEMBERS ABSENT:
Charlotte Johnson, Chair - Parks Board	Brent Pearson, Arborist - Street Department	Raymond Bader, West Texas Urban Forestry Council
Oscar Mestas, Vice Chair - Texas Forest Service	Lupe Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney	One Vacancy
Wynn Anderson, At Large	Richard Garcia - Parks & Recreation Department	
Dr. Tammy Bendele, Horticultural Background	Edward Nuñez, Admin. Assistant - Street Dept.	
Eileen Karlsruher, At Large		
John White, Arborist		
Lewis Wright, Landscape Architect		

1. Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes –

The April 11, 2005 meeting was canceled due to no quorum; therefore, there were no Minutes. Motion by John White to approve the March 14, 2005 Minutes; seconded by Dr. Tammy Bendele. All in favor.

3. Memorial Tree – Parks Department / Brent Pearson

Brent Pearson reported that there were no new additions to the Memorial Tree Program.

4. Memorial Tree Guidelines Revision – Charlotte Johnson

Charlotte Johnson deferred this for the next meeting as she was not prepared to discuss this item.

5. Update and Discussion on the Arbor Day Celebration – Dr. Tammy Bendele

The Arbor Day Celebration was held at Hidden Valley Cowboy Park: Six trees were planted; Riverside High School Band played; the Color Guard from Parkland High School was present, as was "Smokey".

Charlotte Johnson stated that Dee Wardy had taken some pictures. She again said that if we have any pictures of Arbor Day celebrations we need to try to get them on the website. Edward Nuñez stated that they be given to him or Rosemary to post on the website. There was a discussion as to when to hold future celebrations. Dr. Tammy Bendele suggested the date be set ahead of time, e.g., same day each year, and not to have it on the same weekend as other festivities. Oscar Mestas said that the National Arbor Day in Texas is always the last Friday in April, but that it used to be held in February around President's Day. He said February is a better time to plant trees, and that we could hold it anytime earlier than April. This will be placed as an action item for the June meeting. Mrs. Johnson thanked Dr. Bendele, Oscar Mestas, Brent Pearson, and Eileen Karlsruher for their work in the event.

6. Update and Discussion on Approved Tree & Plant List – Brent Pearson

There were no motions for revisions.

7. Update and Discussion on Tree Care Ordinance – Oscar Mestas

Oscar Mestas stated that he had given Lupe Cuellar all the information through e-mail, and that he does not have anything with him at this time.

Lupe Cuellar stated that she was working on two separate ordinances, one dealing with the unauthorized destruction of trees located on City property, and one that deals with everything else. It was agreed to consolidate both ordinances into one that deals with anything that has to do with trees. She said that right now we have two sections in the Municipal Code that deals with trees: one with the mulberry trees, and one with nuisance and pests, etc. It was agreed that the one dealing with the mulberry trees should stay separate.

Per Oscar Mestas Tree City USA would approve the ordinance in order for us to become a Tree City USA (the deadline for certification is in November this year). Lupe Cuellar will draft the ordinance and have Pete Smith in College Station see if it meets their guidelines, and then bring it to the Board.

Lupe Cuellar stated that we have to be careful as to who has the authority to enforce. If the Tree Board will have a greater role than what was authorized in the ordinance establishing this Board, then it has to be amended. Charlotte Johnson stated that this Board is an advisory Board and that this ordinance will actually be enforced by the Street Department and the Parks Department. The Board's goal is to pass this ordinance through City Council before November.

Richard Garcia, Parks Department, asked if there is a section that identifies a requirement for removing trees. Per Lupe Cuellar there is none in this one, but that trees on City property should be removed only by the City. There should be an internal policy in both departments that establishes the proper removal of trees. There was discussion for the need to addressing in the ordinance the removal of hazardous trees on private property, even though the City now has the authority to remove those trees, and the need to have an agreement on the rating of a hazardous tree to be removed.

8. Update and Discussion on Adopt-a-Median – Brent Pearson


Brent Pearson stated they have not done any work at this time.

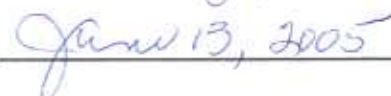
9. OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

Charlotte Johnson thanked Mr. Mestas and Mr. Pearson for their work in saving a tree last week, by having it removed from in front of the Plaza Theatre and replanting it in front of the Main Library.

10. Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Next meeting Monday, June 13, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. - same location.



Approved: Charlotte Johnson, Chairman
Date:  _____

Rosemary G. Borrego, Secretary

